



Subject:	Rural Needs: Annual Monitoring Report
Date:	21st September 2018
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Stella Gilmartin, Equality & Diversity Officer Lorraine Dennis, Equality & Diversity Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to submit for approval the Council's Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for 2017-18.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the Council's Annual Monitoring Return to (DAERA) for 2017-18.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background</u> The Council has a new statutory duty under the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service

	<p>design/delivery decisions. The rural population of Belfast is approximately 1,484 people comprising the small settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.2 The requirement to monitor and report applies to all Northern Ireland departments and district council's from 1st June 2017. The Council is required under section 3(1) of the Act to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compile information on the exercise of its functions under section 1(1) of the Act; • include that information in their annual report; and • send that information to DAERA on the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return <p>The Rural Needs Annual Monitoring return relation to the period April 2017- March 2018 is set out in Appendix 1.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.3 Officers from across the organisation are involved in completing Rural Needs Impact Assessments. The City Solicitor has agreed that the Equality and Diversity Unit have corporate responsibility for collating this information.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.4 The actions outlined contribute to our legal compliance regarding implementation of the rural needs duty.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return